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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 1, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With all people of goodwill, O God, we ask for Your guidance and Your direction in our lives, in our communities, and in our world. Give us, we pray, the knowledge we need to chart our course and also wisdom to encompass justice and truth. Give us integrity of spirit so we can focus on the paths of righteousness just as we beseech Your mercy and Your forgiveness.

With adoration and thanksgiving, we recall how people throughout our history have sought Your blessing. And so now in our time and place, we pray for those same gifts of the spirit that will lift us up and express a unity of heart and soul.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1836. An act to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to improve administration of sanctions against unfit health care providers under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3412. An act to amend and make technical corrections in title III of the Small Business Investment Act.

H.R. 4110. An act to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to make various improvements in education, housing, and cemetery programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3616) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1677. An act to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 2531. An act to designate a portion of Interstate Route 70 in Missouri as "Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70".

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 1355) "An Act to designate the United States courthouse located in New Haven, Connecticut, as the 'Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse'."

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day. It marks the beginning of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. While the greatest news in this battle is the number of mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and friends who survive breast cancer, we must continue to promote the importance of early detection and early diagnosis, which continue to remain our best weapons against this devastating disease.

This year alone approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed; more than 43,000 women will die. That is why the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), who has shown so much concern about this problem, and I are introducing a resolution today that underscores the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer.

The Bass resolution helps raise awareness that early detection through screening mammograms and breast biopsies are vitally important. As all women know, mammograms detect lumps and biopsies confirm whether these lumps are cancerous or noncancerous. Our resolution encourages

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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women to take an active role in fighting this deadly disease through regular self-examinations, annual mammograms, and breast biopsies when a lump is detected. When it is detected early, women can conquer breast cancer.

I ask my colleagues to support this vitally important resolution.

ON KOSOVO

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, recent reports of atrocities against Kosovo civilians by Serb security forces are certainly appalling. It is further evidence of President Milosevic's criminality in repressing ethnic Albanians.

It is entirely understandable why many people would therefore support military intervention by the United Nations or by NATO with U.S. leadership. But it is very important to realize that such military action, if it were to occur with U.S. forces, needs to be a decision taken by the Congress, not by the President.

Air strikes within the borders of Yugoslavia in order to stop attacks by Serbian forces against civilians in an area that the United States recognizes as sovereign Yugoslav territory simply could not be construed as "defensive" within the inherent authority of the President as Commander in Chief. Rather, they would be offensive in nature, involving the invasion of the air space of a nation which has not attacked the United States.

That is the sort of action which falls within the exclusive powers of the Congress under the United States Constitution.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll writes the following:

When I use a word, Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.

The question is, said Alice, whether you can make words mean so many different things.

Mr. Speaker, the Humpty Dumpty's of our political landscape use words to mean what they want them to mean. Yet the fact remains, words have very specific meanings, meanings that no common person would dispute. Alone means alone; is means is; sex means sex. No matter what mental gymnastics someone goes through. Words have meanings. When someone uses words in a court of law to mean things that they do not actually mean, that is called lying under oath. That is wrong. It is dishonorable and worthy of a congressional inquiry.

MORE ON KOSOVO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, once again genocide has reared its ugly head. Serbian President Milosevic is brutally exterminating ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Women, children, even the elderly are being slaughtered. After all this, France says, and I quote, "We must send a strong message."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The last I heard, NATO did not work for the Western Union. It is time for NATO to do their job. It is time for France to step up once in a while. It is time for Europe to help us out, and it is time for independence in Kosovo.

One last thing, Mr. Speaker. Milosevic must be stopped. It is about time for France to do their job, too.

TAX CUTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what do liberals, in the bottom of their hearts, think about tax cuts?

Well, you do not have to speculate any more because the liberals these days, from the President on down, are saying out loud exactly what they think about tax cuts. They call tax cuts an election year gimmick.

Last year the President called the people in Virginia who supported a tax cut selfish, selfish for daring to suggest that people should be able to keep more of their own money. The truth is, liberals really do believe that tax cuts are nothing more than an election year gimmick. It is simply inconceivable to the liberal mind-set that the Republicans believe as a matter of principle that the government takes too much of your money and then wastes too much of what it takes.

Allowing the people to keep more of what already belongs to them is a gimmick to liberals. To Republicans, it is a fundamental freedom issue. To people who work very hard to build a life for themselves and their family, to pursue the American dream, this must be a surprising bit of news indeed.

HMO REFORM

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Republican Congress to step up to the plate and to pass real managed care reform. We need to fix the health insurance system to give patients the protections that they need.

After one year of ignoring the President's call for a strong, enforceable bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights, the Republican House leadership has done nothing more than pass a bill that treats cancer with Band-Aids.

We ignore at our own risk what the American people demand, and they demand health care reform. They do not want their health plan to abandon them when they need it the most.

Speaker GINGRICH once promised to let Medicare wither on the vine. This year he is going to let the Patients Bill of Rights wither on the vine. I ask, will he also let Social Security wither on the vine?

The leadership has the ability to pass legislation that protects Americans in the few days that we have left before adjournment. Will they act on behalf of millions of Americans? It is time to stop playing politics and pass HMO reform now.

BUDGET SURPLUS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Will Rogers once said that you have to be an optimist to be a Democrat and you have got to be a humorist to stay one.

Yesterday the President must have thought that he was using humor when he said that the creation of the surplus is due to the fiscal restraint and leadership of his administration. I believe the only thing that the President left out of his speech was a line from the Wizard of Oz, Toto, "I do not think we are in Kansas anymore," because this make-believe yellow brick road theory that his administration is responsible for the surplus is nothing but simple pure comedy.

I think of myself as a person who recognizes and appreciates humor. I certainly did not mind laughing at the President's stand-up comedy routine yesterday. But we have thrown back the curtain and we have seen that the voice behind the curtain is a very same voice whose only budget proposal projected a \$241 billion deficit for this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get back to reality. It is the Republican Congress and Republican leadership that deserves the credit for this surplus. It was their commitment in 1995 to get this country on the right track back toward fiscal responsibility and fiscal stability.

WOMEN'S CONTRACEPTION

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, a bunch of fellows from this body are running around the Treasury, Postal conference committee trying to get into the contraception business, women's contraception business, that is. But women's contraception is nobody's business but theirs. Yet there is stealth action in this House to overturn a bill that passed both houses, that contraception be treated like other prescriptions in